

Keep Georgia Moving!

The Newsletter of the Georgia Statewide Transportation Plan

Volume I, Number 3



What's Happened So Far?

The following major events have occurred thus far in the project:

<i>February 22, 2000</i>	First Stakeholders Meeting; discussion of project scope
<i>February 23-24, 2000</i>	Statewide Transportation Planning Forum; directors of six state DOTs came to Georgia to discuss statewide planning
<i>May 8 – 18, 2000</i>	Regional Public Forums held at 12 locations across the state; presentation of "report card" on GDOT progress since completion of last statewide plan in 1995
<i>August 9, 2000</i>	Second Stakeholders Meeting; discussion of report card and statewide economic forecasts
<i>August 9, 2000</i>	Environmental Justice Workshop; discussion of application of EJ principles and policies to the statewide planning effort



Major highlights of the EJ workshop were as follows:

Priority issues identified by the participants included the following:

- Accessibility for everyone to transportation options
- Efficiency of a seamless transportation system to get you where you want to go
- Equity of transportation provision especially in rural areas
- Operational effectiveness in regard to safety and security
- Maintaining a stable funding base
- Providing a decision-making process that recognizes the relationship between transportation and land use planning

The most important issues for consideration in regard to the incorporation of EJ into the statewide planning process included the following:

- Provide funding to educate the public about EJ issues
- Evaluate proposed strategies in regard to how the burdens and benefits are distributed across different groups in society
- Examine the linkages between access to jobs and home location
- Incorporate EJ into the value system used to prioritize projects
- Recognize the importance of regional solutions to transportation problems
- Incorporate EJ concerns into the political decision-making process

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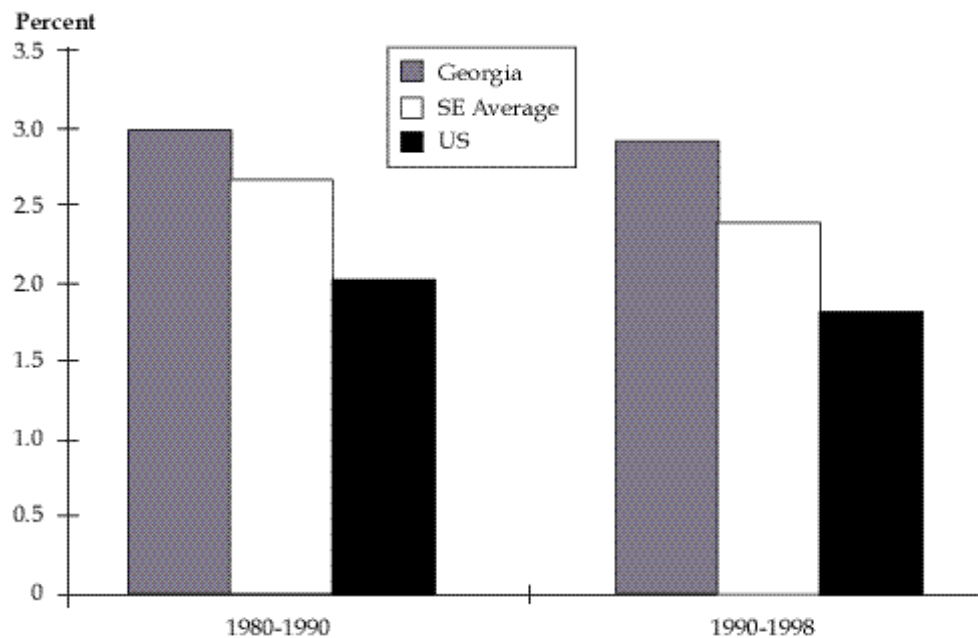
Some of the major findings are as follows. The complete presentation is posted on the web site or can be obtained from the project contacts.

Summary of Global, National, and State Economic Trends and Implications

Trend	Implications
Economic/Population Growth	Increased Demand for Transportation
Aging Population	Shift in Travel Patterns; Mobility Concerns
Sunbelt Growth	Increases in Freight and Truck VMT
Service and High Tech Demand	Shift in Freight Travel Patterns
Increased Trade	Growth in Ports; Importance of Intermodalism
Environmental Concerns	Air Quality, Land Use Planning, Env. Justice
Logistics Patterns	Just-in-Time Delivery, e-commerce
Regional Patterns	Urban/Rural

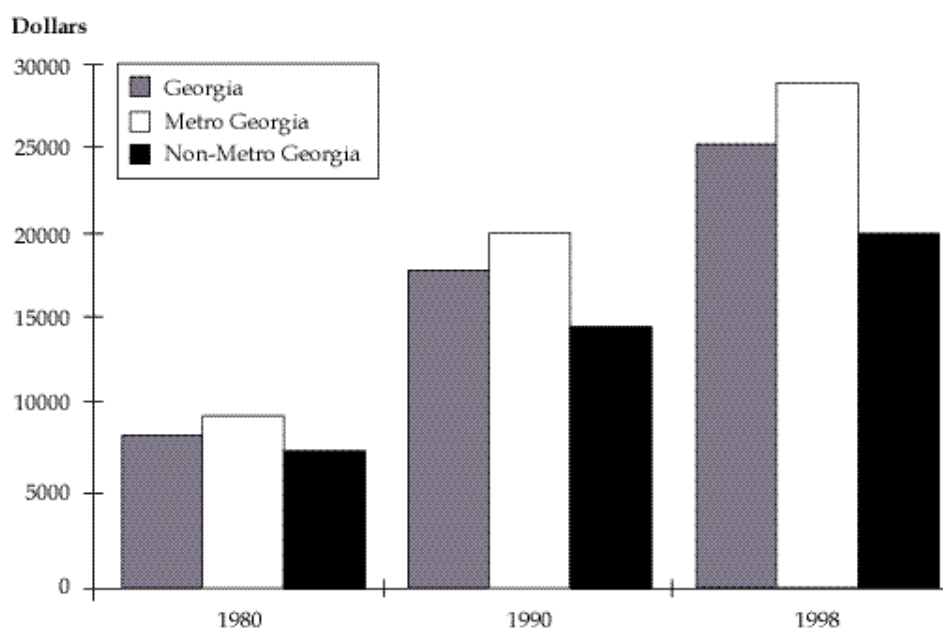
Trends at the local, regional, national and international levels will impact the demand for transportation services in Georgia.

Annualized Employment Growth 1980-1998



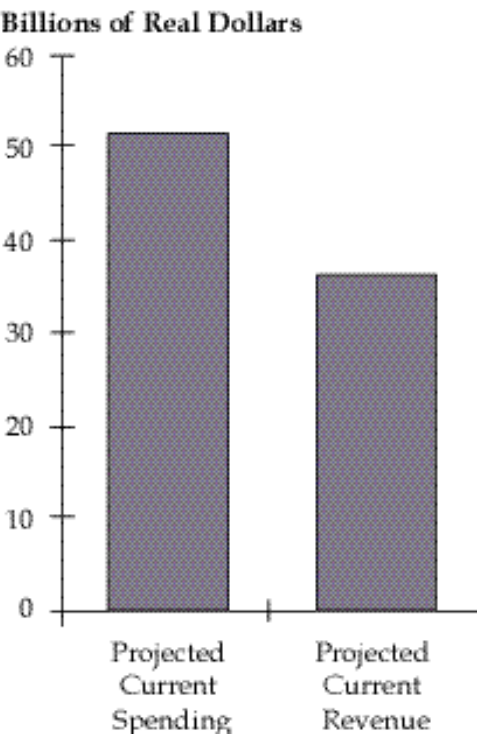
By almost every measure, Georgia has grown faster than the US as a whole and the Southeast region over the past two decades.

Per Capita Personal Income in Georgia



Growth within Georgia has been faster in the metropolitan areas relative to the state as a whole.

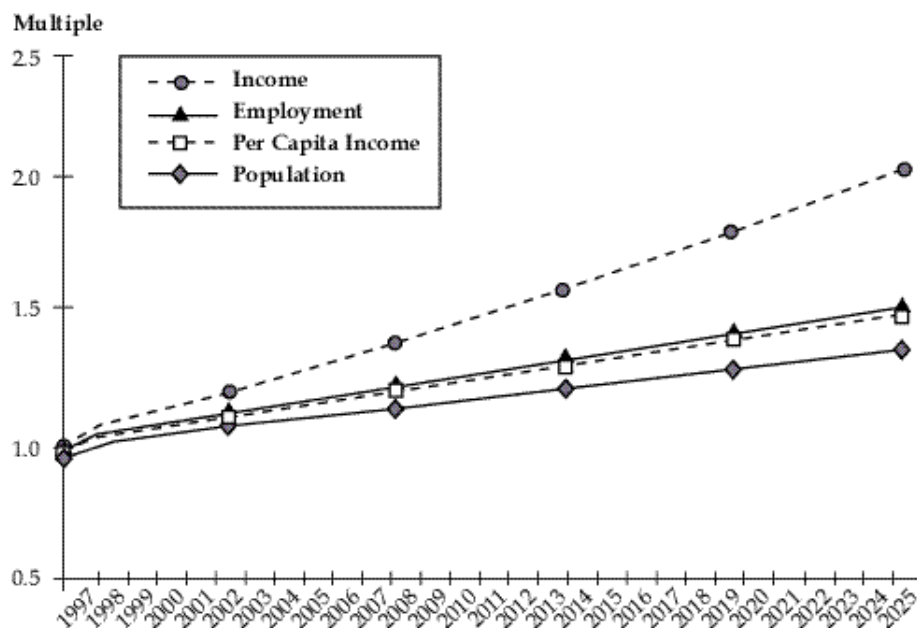
Anticipated 25-Year Spending and Revenue



Assumptions
Baseline inflation rate = 2.7 percent
Personal income growth = motor fuel tax (2.0 percent growth)
No conversion to alternative fuels
Federal formulas (apportionment) and authorization rates unchanged
Federal discretionary grants unchanged

Based on current spending policies and existing funding sources adjusted for inflation in the future, the state will experience a significant funding shortfall for transportation programs.

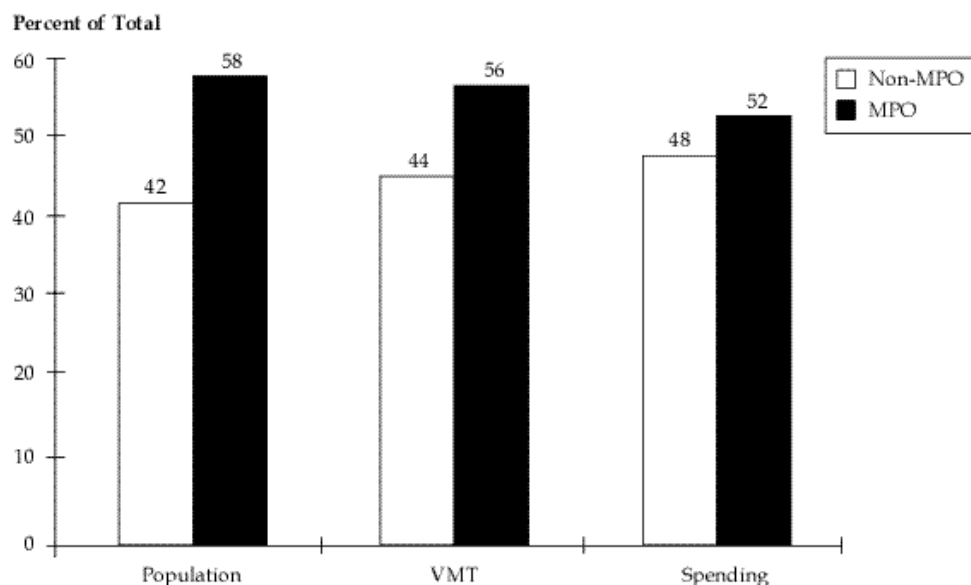
Economic Growth Forecast for Georgia 1997-2025



Robust growth is forecast to continue over the next two decades, placing increasing demands on the transportation system.

Population, VMT, and STIP Spending

By MPO and Non-MPO Areas



Funding in the current Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is distributed reasonably equitably between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

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Why Should You Care?

- ◆ *New and expanding businesses depend on a well planned transportation system.*
- ◆ *High transportation costs result in higher prices at your stores.*
- ◆ *Traffic congestion makes for much longer trips.*
- ◆ *If you don't or can't drive, alternative ways to travel are important.*
- ◆ *Improving the quality of the air you breathe positively impacts your health.*

What's Next?

Additional workshops on specific topics of interest will be held across the state in the coming months. The next Stakeholders meeting, to be scheduled later this year or early next year, will focus on the analysis of future transportation conditions and strategies for developing program recommendations. A second round of regional public forums will be held in the spring, 2000 to review the recommendations. Additional supplemental public involvement activities are currently being planned with GDOT.

What Can You Do?

- ✓ Look for opportunities to participate in project meetings and other activities.
- ✓ Check out the GDOT WEB sitelink and 800 telephone number for progress reports on the Plan, meeting notices, and accessing the e-mail comment section.
- ✓ Let us know of any public events that may be occurring or publications through which we may provide promotional information on the Statewide Plan.
- ✓ Become a member of our "Family of Partners," those who have indicated that they would like to receive information on a regular basis on all aspects of the Department's transportation planning program.

We are counting on you! Help make this Statewide Transportation Plan the most successful outreach initiative in GDOT's history! Please call, fax or email us if you have any questions or would like additional information. Thank you!

Project Background

Georgia will be receiving up to \$400 million annually in additional federal transportation funding due to the passage of TEA-21. Along with this increased funding comes the opportunity to reexamine how we are addressing the transportation needs of our State's residents, businesses and traveling public. In response to this challenge, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will take a fresh look at how to best meet the transportation needs of the State for the new millennium by updating the **Statewide Transportation Plan**. This will require a major effort to get input from Georgians and to provide them with useful information. This first edition of the project newsletter is an important part of this outreach effort. It will be published quarterly to provide citizens with updates on project activities and directions for getting involved in the project.

Project Web Site: www.dot.state.ga.us

Project Toll Free Number: 1-888-419-GDOT

State Transportation

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